

Q4. Thinking about, and communicating on, these different essential aspects of design will need to take account of the 'ages and stages' model of child development, discussed previously.

The experiences of children according to these design features need to be methodically explore through academically rigorous studies, as well as systematic reviews of current knowledge. For example, some adolescents may find tracking devices on their phone a comfort, an emotional containment in the absence of physical proximity to caregivers. Other adolescents may see it as an infringement of their privacy, a reflection of lack of parental trust and a trigger for more rebellious behaviour. We need the research to help us understand what type of adolescent thinks what. But this needs to happen alongside development based on fundamental human rights to know if we are being tracked e.g. with an icon or light on the phone showing when tracking is occurring.

Research is already showing that the most vulnerable children are those that struggle to stay safe online. We need to understand the differing needs of not only ages, but social groups and family dynamics, to help identify the best way of communicating about these design features.